



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Problem gambling, defined as an urge to continuously gamble despite severe negative consequences or a desire to stop, is a serious public health issue that affects an estimated 380,000 Georgians of many ages, socioeconomic levels, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS: Problem gambling can have significant and adverse societal and economic impacts on individuals, families, businesses, and communities. If treated, these damaging effects to both individuals and society as a whole can be drastically minimized; and

WHEREAS: It is important to raise awareness regarding problem gambling so that citizens will be prepared understand the symptoms and treatment options necessary to help themselves or their loved ones; and

WHEREAS: Numerous individuals, professionals, and organizations, including the Georgia Council on Problem Gambling, are dedicated to educating the public about the consequences of this disease as well as the availability and effectiveness of treatment; and

WHEREAS: Problem Gambling Awareness Month is also a time to celebrate the men and women in Georgia who have worked diligently to overcome problems associated with their gambling behaviors; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF